

## **Abstract**

### **An impact of the recent economic crisis upon the control of mergers of competitors in the EU**

The purpose of this thesis is to analyse an impact of the recent economic crisis upon the control of mergers of competitors in the EU. It is established as an initial hypotheses that the economic crisis had considerable impact upon the EC merger control.

The thesis is composed of six chapters, each of them dealing with different aspects of the above mentioned topic.

Chapter One is introductory and defines basic terminology used in the thesis. The chapter is subdivided into two parts. Part One describes pre-crisis legal framework of EC merger control. Part Two deals with dominant pre-crisis theoretical approaches towards EC merger control.

Chapter Two examines origin and development of the recent economic crisis, various regulatory responses to it, as well as the joint action of EU Member States towards dealing with consequences of the economic crisis. The chapter consists of seven parts, last one of them attempts to compare current situation in the EU with historical example of US antitrust enforcement during national crises.

Chapter Three is focused on the impact of the recent economic crisis on EC merger control. It is subdivided into nine parts and provides an outline of the consistency on the principles and flexibility on the means in EC merger control during the recent economic crisis. This chapter also comments specific crisis related issues such as too big to fail, failing firm defence and rescue nationalization.

Chapter Four describes an impact of the recent economic crisis upon the control of mergers of competitors in the selected EU Member States – Great Britain, Czech Republic and Germany. By the way of comparison it illustrates how different regulatory responses towards the economic crisis might affect merger control and structure of the market.

Chapter Five explores available statistical data on merger control and concludes that mergers are less frequent in comparison to pre-crisis years, but the structure of European Commission's decisions remains the same.

Conclusions are drawn in Chapter Six. The initial hypothesis has not been confirmed. Although successful resolution of difficulties brought by economic crisis required swift and flexible approach, the basic principles remained unchanged and the recent economic crisis did not have considerable impact on the EC merger control.